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Address

## Real estate phase continues

The real estate phase of the project follows a path similar to the construction phase with the exception that it takes place about two years earlier.

WisDOT is nearly finished purchasing land for the roadway in Brown County. Negotiations are ongoing with several of the property owners along the route. All purchases are expected to be completed by August of this year.

All purchases on the segment of the project from County H to WIS 42 are expected to be made by September or October.

WisDOT is currently determining what land purchases need to take place in the final section, from the Keweenaw/Door County line to County H.

This process is expected to be completed this fall. Negotiations with landowners along this section should start in summer 2005 and be completed in late 2006 or early 2007, before construction begins on phase 3.

*Do you know someone who may be interested in this project? Please share this newsletter with them. If you would like more copies, contact PF O'Connor at (920) 492-5641 or patrick.oconnor@dot.state.wi.us.*



Archaeology digs on the WIS 57 project have yielded evidence that humans lived in Wisconsin far earlier than originally thought. This trench near Boss Tavern reveals an organic mat from 10,700 to 10,800 years ago.



# WIS 57 expansion project

## County P to WIS 42

Summer 2004

### Contact information:

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**Mission statement:**  
*To provide leadership in the development and operation of a safe and efficient transportation system.*

### Included in this issue:

- Construction update
- Archeology update
- Eagle nest sighted
- Phasing map
- Phasing schedule
- Real estate update

## WIS 57 construction resumes this fall

The expansion of WIS 57 to a four-lane highway between Green Bay and Sturgeon Bay is scheduled to continue this year.

**Phase 1:** A section of Phase 1, the Dyckesville bypass, that extends from County P to County Line Road in Brown County was being bid by contractors in June 2004. Work could begin as early as August 2004, but more likely later in fall. The start date depends on the contractor's workload and present work schedules.

A second project to construct the roadbed for the Keweenaw County portion of the Dyckesville Bypass will be available for contractors to bid in November 2004.

The project begins at the Brown/Keweenaw County line and extends to the Keweenaw/Door County line. Work is

expected to begin early next spring and be completed late in the fall.

Traffic during these projects will remain on the existing WIS 57 route through Dyckesville, with no lane restrictions or detours.

WisDOT tentatively plans to pave the Dyckesville Bypass and open it to traffic during late summer or early fall 2006.

**Phase 2:** The section from County H to WIS 42 in Door County is slated to be available for contractor bids in February 2005.

This project includes both the grading and paving aspects in a single contract. Due to the length of the project and the amount of work involved, work will be completed and



Grading operations have begun on phase 1 of the project.

opened as a full four-lane facility in fall 2006.

Traffic using this section may notice several lane shifts during construction. This is necessary to make connections to the existing four-lane facility just north of the WIS 42 intersection.

Motorists are reminded to remain alert, watch for

**See Construct, page 2...**

## Archaeological fieldwork nears completion

WisDOT projects can sometimes serve as a springboard for archeological research in Wisconsin.

When planning a new transportation corridor, WisDOT hires many professionals, including archaeologists, to examine any areas of historical or environmental value that may lie within the corridor area.

Occasionally, these professionals discover areas of historical value that no one knew existed.

This results in an involved research effort that can yield significant findings and help us understand more about the history of Wisconsin's land and people.

Archeology has become a major component of the WIS

57 expansion project. Staff and students from both UW-Milwaukee and Marquette University have been exploring digs along the WIS 57 corridor since 2000.

About 145 archeological sites have been identified within the various corridor areas. Of these, 105 have been determined not eligible for

**See Digs, page 2...**

## The eagle has landed!

The WIS 57 project received a new neighbor this spring. A bald eagle nested in the Dyckesville area. Whether the eagle has any hatchlings is yet to be known.

The nest, approximately four to six feet in diameter, is located in a tree adjacent to land recently purchased for the expansion of WIS 57 in Brown County. The tree is just beyond the right of way limits and will not be removed.

The eagle was discovered by a property owner adjacent to the WIS 57 corridor, who spotted the eagle flying along a local drainage section behind his house.

The property owner informed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff, who performed field reviews to confirm

the sightings and nest location.

The eagle is now a guest in the project area and like all guests must be shown the proper hospitality. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife regulations, the nest and immediate area cannot be disturbed during the eagle’s nesting season. This means that from February 1 to August 15, no construction can take place within a 660-foot radius of the nest.

WisDOT is ready to release a contract for bidding to construct a portion of the Dyckesville Bypass in June 2004. Since the project includes the area of the eagle’s nest, the contract stipulates that no work be performed within the required area limits and time frames. Work elsewhere on the project will continue as normal.



Bald eagle nests require a buffer zone with a 660-foot radius.

The department is also working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service and the DNR for options to preserve the nesting site. It is unclear if the eagle will return to the same nest area once work begins and the site is cleared for the highway project, but our staff hope it will. Work in the nesting area is required to be completed prior to February 1, 2005.

## Construct / Motorists should stay alert in upcoming phases

From front...

directions, slow down, and not follow other vehicles too closely through these shifts.

**Phase 3:** The final segment of the expansion project begins at the Kewaunee/Door County line and extends to Door County H. It includes bypassing

the communities of Namur and Brussels and the “Brussels Hill.”

This segment will see the grading work starting in spring 2007 and completed later that fall. Paving will be completed and the road will be open to traffic in fall 2008. During this phase, motorists will

notice few impacts while traveling on the existing WIS 57 route until the entire section is complete.

Once the final section is finished and opened to traffic, WisDOT will upgrade the existing WIS 57 roadway prior to transferring it to county jurisdiction.

## Digs / Findings shed new light on Wisconsin’s ancient past

From front...

inclusion on the national list of historic sites, 29 have been avoided through alignment changes, nine have been identified as significant enough for further study and investigation, and seven remain for initial investigation.

The fieldwork will be drawing to a close this year. Extraordinary artifacts have been found, some of which have led to a significant revision of Wisconsin prehistoric history.

Based on artifacts and evidence obtained along the corridor, archaeologists have

suggested that people could have occupied this region as early as 11,500 to 11,800 years ago—much sooner than originally thought.

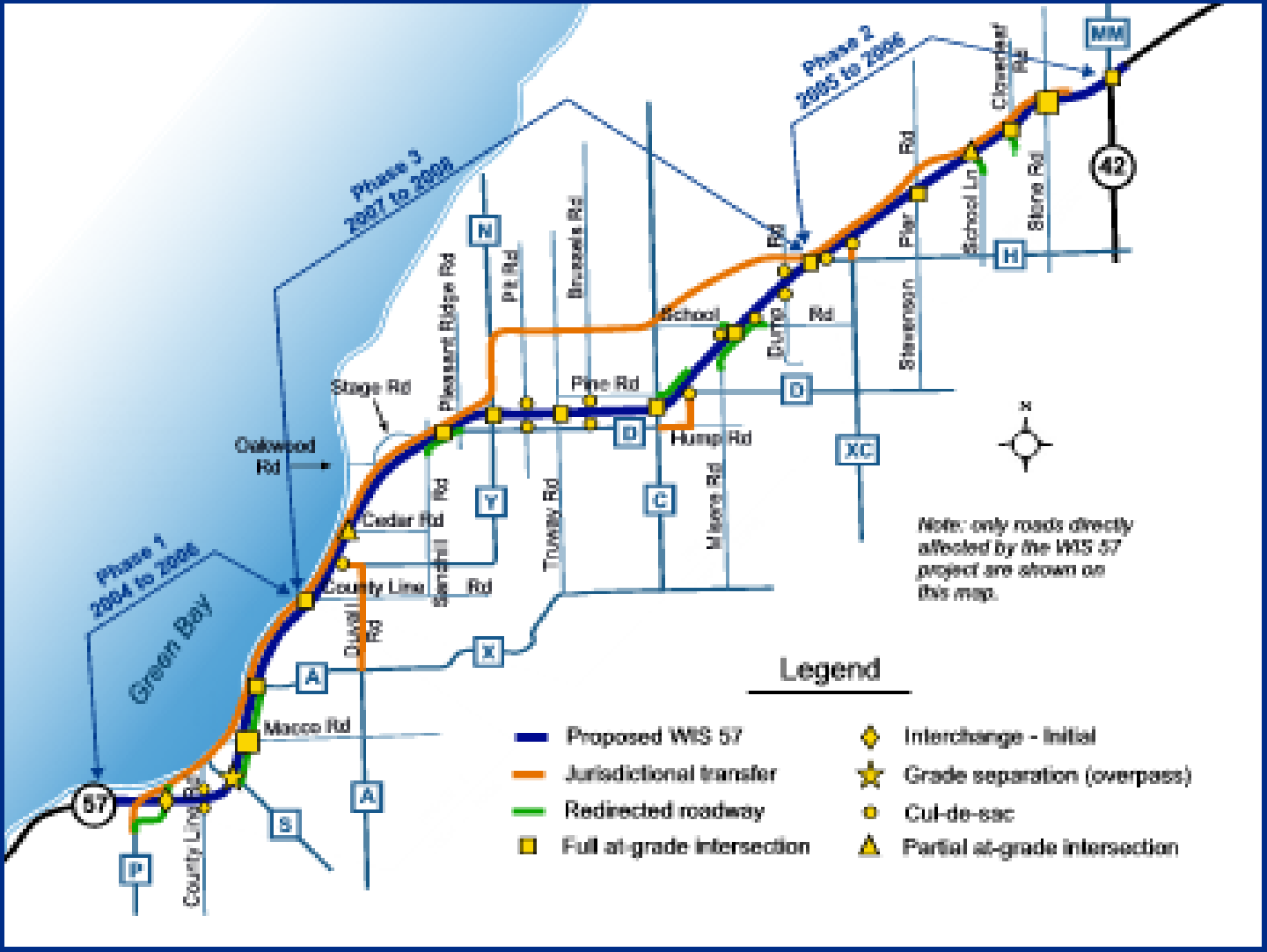
The findings show these prehistoric Wisconsinites lived along or near the face of the last glacial retreat, hunting and gathering in a tundra-like environment.

While much of the attention has been focused on the prehistoric findings along the project, several sites in the corridor area are also yielding valuable information about people and events from much more recent time periods. At

these sites, archeologists hope to be able to interpret local technologies and idiosyncrasies by comparing them to similar sites throughout the state.

Though the fieldwork phase is ending, the data analysis phase of the research is just getting started. Like pieces of a gigantic, ancient puzzle, archaeologists will spend years taking the information found along the WIS 57 corridor and putting it together to form a more complete understanding of Wisconsin’s past.

(See back page for photograph.)



## Construction phase schedules

Phase 1 Dyckesville bypass	Phase 2 County H to WIS 42	Phase 3 Namur-Brussels bypass
<b>Real Estate purchasing:</b> Complete	<b>Construction:</b>	<b>Real Estate Purchasing:</b>
<b>Construction:</b>	Earthwork: 2005	2005 and 2006
Earthwork: 2004 and 2005	Paving: 2006	<b>Construction:</b>
Paving: 2006	<b>Open to traffic:</b> Fall 2006	Earthwork: 2007
<b>Open to traffic:</b> Fall 2006	Extends 4-Lane south 6 miles to the north-side of the Brussels Hill at County H.	Paving: 2008
Extends four-lane section north to the Kewaunee/Door County line.		<b>Open to traffic:</b> Fall 2008
		Completes the route to full 4-lane facility between Green Bay and Sturgeon Bay.